



NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2017–2018

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**Photo: Patti Boss and Roberta Auston
at the Family Week dinner*

MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF AND DEPUTY CHIEF

Dear Citizens:

A new year lies ahead, full of possibilities and opportunities to grow and continue to support each other and strengthen our relationships with each other, our families, and our community. This is always a busy time of year, Council and staff have been working very hard over the last few months. Here are some highlights:

- * Ta'an Kwäch'än Council Annual General Assembly
- * Hosted a Joint Council and Elders Council Meeting
- * Ribbon cutting ceremony and official opening of River Bend affordable housing units
- * Attended Southern Lakes Land Vision Project Charter Signing Ceremony, Carcross, YT
- * Raised the Ta'an Kwäch'än Council flag at Yukon College
- * Participated in the Canada and Modern Treaty Self-Governing First Nations Forum, Ottawa. ON
- * Participated in the Yukon Forum, Haines Junction
- * Hosted a Southern Tutchone Tribal Council Fall Gathering, Helen's Fish Camp, YT
- * Attended Council of Yukon First Nations leadership meetings
- * Supported *Safe at Home: A Community-based Action Plan to End and Prevent Homelessness in Whitehorse*
- * Continued to strengthen intergovernmental relations with Kwanlin Dün First Nation, City of Whitehorse, and Government of Yukon



*Chief Kristina Kane, Elders and distinguished guests
at the River Bend ribbon-cutting ceremony,
October 27, 2017*

Ta'an Kwäch'än Council held our General Assembly on October 28 and 29, 2017. We would like to extend our gratitude to all the Citizens who attended and participated in this important meeting. A Special General Assembly will be held March 1 to 3, 2018 (with Sunday, March 4 as a reserve date) to address deferred resolutions.

River Bend officially opened in November and we would like to acknowledge the Citizens who were employed to assist in the construction of the buildings. Ta'an Kwäch'än Council owns 12 of the 42 affordable housing units. Four are now occupied by our Citizens, with the remaining eight units to open early 2018.

A draft strategic plan was shared at the General Assembly with Citizens. This is a living document that will be used as a tool to guide our activities over the next five years. In the new year, we will be hosting a Community Unity workshop, please stay tuned for the confirmed date. We encourage everyone to attend and participate!

Winter is now upon us in full force and we hope that you are able to enjoy the many outdoor winter activities our territory has to offer, and we look forward to you seeing at upcoming Ta'an Kwäch'än Council events. Wishing everyone a safe holiday season and a Happy New Year!

In unity,

Chief Kristina Kane and Deputy Chief Michelle Telep

FORUM IN OTTAWA: CANADA AND MODERN TREATY SELF-GOVERNING FIRST NATIONS

Deputy Chief Telep attended the Canada and Modern Treaty Self-Governing First Nations Forum in Ottawa on November 1, 2017. This was a historic event, which brought together the prime minister, key federal ministers, and First Nation self-government and modern treaty leaders. Never before has a prime minister of Canada met with First Nations modern treaty holders collectively. The meeting was coordinated by the Land Claims Agreements Coalition, an organization established in 2003 that works to ensure that comprehensive land claims and associated self-government agreements are respected, honoured and fully implemented. They have worked hard over the last 14 years to advance a national voice on treaty implementation. The forum was used to discuss some of the challenges that First Nations face in implementing their Self-Government Agreements, with a particular emphasis on advancing modern treaty issues as distinctly different from Indian Act Bands. A commitment was made by the prime minister to meet annually with modern treaty holders to strengthen First Nation relationships with the Crown.

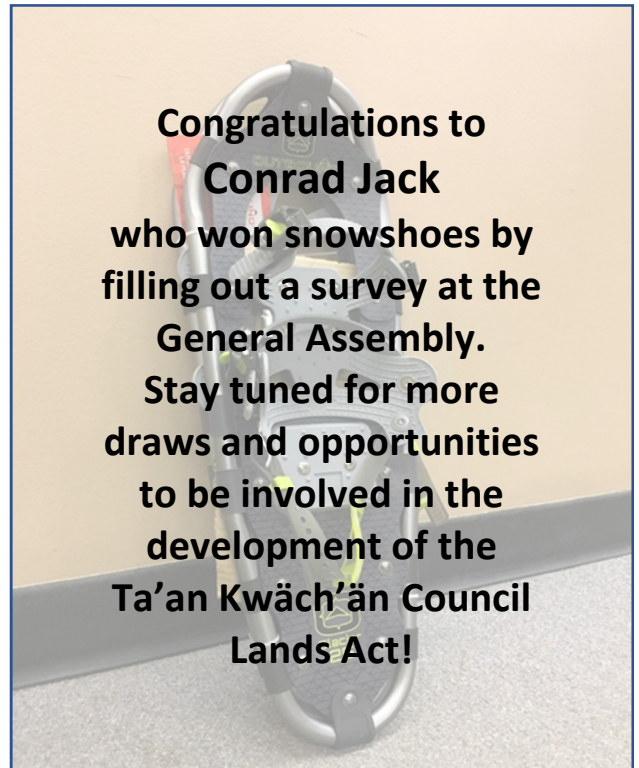


Prime Minister Trudeau with Deputy Chief Telep

John Lavalee was
THE WINNER
of the Elk Tag Draw 2017



**Congratulations to
Conrad Jack
who won snowshoes by
filling out a survey at the
General Assembly.
Stay tuned for more
draws and opportunities
to be involved in the
development of the
Ta'an Kwäch'än Council
Lands Act!**



ART GIFTS MARK OPENINGS

On September 22, 2017, a ceremony marked the opening of Carcross/Tagish First Nation's Learning Centre. The spectators heard speeches from Yukon First Nation chiefs and education workers. There was also an announcement about the partnership between Vancouver Island University in Nanaimo and Yukon College that has funds to assist Indigenous students with their education.

On behalf of Ta'an Kwä'chän Council, Deputy Chief Michelle Telep delivered messages of congratulations for the opening of the Learning Centre. The Khà Shâde Héni and Carcross/Tagish First Nation were gifted with two prints depicting Wolf and Crow, created by Ta'an Kwä'chän Council Citizen Jared Kane. The remarks on the plaque read: "The Ta'an Kwä'chän Council would like to congratulate you on the opening of your new Learning Centre and to thank you for hosting the 37th Annual General Assembly, June 2017. Chief Kane and Council."



Elders Gail Anderson and Shirley Adamson, Khà Shâde Héni Andy Carvill, and Deputy Chief Michelle Telep



Carcross/Tagish First Nation's Learning Centre

Elder Gail Anderson attended the event. She was impressed by the hospitality and the "beautiful facility. All First Nations should have a building like this." Anderson added that "Chief Carvill had said they needed some art work in the new building, so it's good that we presented some."

Deputy Chief Telep was in attendance when another piece of Kane's art, *The Spirit of Healing*, was presented. On October 6, 2017, the Salvation Army Centre of Hope opened at 405 Alexander Street. Council of Yukon First Nations' (CYFN) Grand Chief Peter Johnston gifted Salvation Army Colonel Lee Graves with a large wooden carving. The piece of art is a symbol of thanks, healing and recognition of the importance of the land to Indigenous people.



CYFN Chief Johnston and Salvation Army Colonel Graves



Centre of Hope, Whitehorse. Photo the Government of Yukon

A FLAG FOR ALL SEASONS

Look up! The Ta'an Kwäch'än Council flag is making an impression above Whitehorse. The logo and flag were created around the time of settlement of land claims. "We needed a flag for representation of TKC," says Elder Ruth Massie, who was general manager of Mundessa Corporation at that time. Sometime about the 1998, the logo and flag came into being, possibly for use in Ottawa.

The blue in the forefront represents the water of Taa'an Män, Lake Laberge. The mountains in the background where were the people hunted. The flowers represented those used in beading moccasins. In the foreground, representations of the two moieties, wolf and crow, face each other.

You may have noticed the Ta'an Kwäch'än Council flag around town over the last few years. Whitehorse City Hall uses flags to announce special events, such as Aboriginal Day, which was named a territorial holiday in 2017. Mayor Curtis, members of City Council and senior management honoured and recognized Ta'an Kwäch'än Council jurisdiction within the City of Whitehorse by raising the TKC flag for June 21, 2017.

On October 10, a small crowd attended a snowy outdoor ceremony at Yukon College. The Ta'an Kwäch'än Council flag was one of the first flown in Yukon College's plan to display all fourteen Yukon First Nations' flags on a daily basis. "The flags are a symbol to our Citizens who are students or staff, even alumni from Yukon College, that they are on their homelands and are being recognized for contributing importantly to their community," said Deputy Chief Michelle Telep. "Flags are a tool of empowerment." These and future flag-raising are important steps in increasing the recognition of Ta'an Kwäch'än Council as a government within our traditional lands.



Mayor Curtis and members of senior management of the City of Whitehorse



Deputy Chief Telep and other dignitaries at Yukon College



Caspin, Kyzak, Taya Smarch and Aurora Johnsgaard, who received a turkey door prize

FAMILY WEEK DINNER DELIGHTS

They were lined up outside the doors of Whitehorse United Church on Thursday, October 6, 2017, waiting for the Ta'an Kwäch'än Council sponsored dinner. National Family Week began in 1985 across Canada, and is celebrated with activities that families can do together. It's obvious that in the five years that Ta'an has been hosting a Whitehorse event, these dinners have become *very* popular with local families!

This year, volunteer staff members served nearly 200 people of all ages. They eagerly tucked into the ham, potatoes, corn and salad prepared by Charlotte Kane and Jessica Jacobs. The kitchen almost ran out of food, but in the end everyone left full and happy. In addition, the families who won hams or turkeys for door prizes had even more reasons to feel the joy of sharing.

POSITIVE STAFF RETREAT



Clerk of Council Elisha Sidoun and Heritage Programs Coordinator Roberta Behn

Tuesday, September 12, 2017, was a special occasion for staff who bonded at a day-long retreat at Richthofen Island. Two boats took more than twenty staff members across Lake Laberge. By the time the second group arrived, Executive Director David Steele reportedly joked that the “team building was already done” as the first group had prepared things, put the tables up and, it seems, had drunk the coffee! Still, they needed Office Manager Amanda Leas to arrive as she was the one who had the muffins and donuts.

Leas had also prepared team-building games, which she had designed to “strengthen the bond between staff and management.” All in all, the glorious weather, the informal discussions and other activities made for a successful day that will go a long way in promoting a healthy workplace for staff and Citizens.

HALLOWE'EN HIJINKS

At a pizza-planning dinner, Ta'an Kwäch'än Council youth put their heads together to prepare for the children's Hallowe'en party. The team came up with some great ideas. Who better to decide how to transform Sacred Cathedral Hall into a bat- and rat-infested basement?

On October 30, 2017, Brandon Smith, Nathan Smith, Kadin Hare, Kiawna Leas and Kara Sweeney, assisted Office Manager Amanda Leas and other staff to get everything ready for the little ghosts and goblins. Our new Youth Outreach and Support Worker, Erin Cote, became acquainted with everyone when she came to join in the fun. Candies, crafts, and games, along with delicious hamburger soup, made for a spooktacular event. Families enjoyed the meal and then spent time decorating mini-pumpkins and delectable cupcakes.

The evening was especially memorable for the Gatensby-Jacobs family who won not one, but two jars of sweets by guessing the correct number of candies. Frightfully delicious!



Rose Irvine and Kashtyn Leas get ready to decorate cupcakes.



Brentt Linville gets creative with a mini-pumpkin.



Cameron Gatensby counts his winnings.



Jessica Jacobs



Oliver Gatensby



Nathan Smith



Keenan and Jakhi Rudyk



Kiawna Leas

ELDERS IN EDMONTON

A National Gathering of Elders was held from September 11 to 14, 2017, at the Edmonton Expo Centre, Edmonton, Alberta. This was the first gathering of Elders with all Indigenous groups of Canada—First Nation, Metis, and Inuit. The event's host was Chief Rupert Meneen and other hosts were the Tallcree Tribal Government; the North Peace Tribal Council; the Assembly of First Nations, Alberta; the Metis Nation of Alberta; and the Edmonton Inuit community.

Ta'an Kwäch'än Council sponsored seven delegates. Alice Maguire, Barbara Hare, Julia Broeren, Geraldine Irvine, Edythe Maloney, Jackie Bazett and Ruth Massie were among the 5,000 registered attendees. Event organizers confirmed the turnout was double what had been expected, with workshops well attended beyond capacity. Some of the Elders commented about the memorable food and that it was remarkable they never ran out despite the numbers of people. The entertainment was top-notch, and in particular the Elders enjoyed the powerful singing and drumming of Blackstone.

Central to the conference were the speakers and workshops on such topics as the environment; reconciliation; revitalization of culture and language; murdered and missing women; and Indigenous cycle of life. Jackie Bazett felt she had attended a “fantastic presentation on climate change.” Ruth Massie noted the reports and plenary session were well done, and others agreed that the Assembly of First Nations National Chief Perry Bellegarde was an inspiring speaker.



Blackstone

One important gain the Elders brought back to Whitehorse was a deep appreciation for how advanced First Nations in the Yukon are in different areas such as language and culture. “Some of them don’t even have native language in their schools yet,” remarked Julia Broeren.

An unexpected treat was meeting television star Erroll Kinistino of the *North of Sixty* program. “When he sat down with us,” Julia Broeren recounts Kinistino said, “Now these are the *real* women of north of sixty!”

In addition to the moments of merriment, Ta'an Kwäch'än Council Elders appreciated the opportunity to meet other Elders, gather current information and enjoy the celebration of Aboriginal culture from all First Nations, Metis and Inuit groups. The Ta'an Kwäch'än Council Elders hope to expand on these experiences at the next National Gathering of Elders expected in 2019.



Geraldine Irvine, Julia Broeren and Edythe Maloney

SOUTHERN TUTCHONE TRIBAL COUNCIL'S FALL GATHERING

Thank you to the Ta'an Kwäch'än Council, staff and all Southern Tutchone Citizens for supporting and hosting the Southern Tutchone Tribal Council's Fall Gathering at Helen's Fish Camp. Although it snowed, it didn't dampen the day. We enjoyed tasty food and great company. There were a number of fur headbands and necklaces made in the sewing workshop, too.

Executive Director Shannon Walker says, "I am very grateful for the work I do and for our current Southern Tutchone Tribal Council (STTC) Board of Directors for their vision and support. We look forward to the STTC Winter Gathering to be held on the Traditional Territory of Champagne Aishihik First Nations. There will be posters distributed and posts on the Kluane Laberge Champagne (STTC) Facebook page. TKC Citizens, send a friend request to Kluane Laberge Champagne and share with other Southern Tutchone Citizens."

The Southern Tutchone Tribal Council includes the three Southern Tutchone nations, Ta'an Kwäch'än Council (TKC), Champagne and Aishihik First Nations (CAFN), and Kluane First Nation (KFN). Chief Kane is the current Tribal Chief of STTC, with the role rotating annually.

The vision of Southern Tutchone Tribal Council is "pride and solidarity in the Southern Tutchone Nations" with a mission to "bring Southern Tutchone people together using events based on culture, language and heritage." The STTC is working on a five-year strategic plan. For information contact Shannon Walker at southerntutchone@northwestel.net or 867.335.1320.



Southern Tutchone Tribal Council Board of Directors (L to R): KFN Chief Bob Dickson, CAFN Councillor Shadelle Chambers, STTC Executive Director Shannon Walker, TKC Chief Kristina Kane, CAFN Chief Steve Smith. (Not included, TKC Councillor Diane Graham, KFN Councillor Monique Martin)

"We have to enact our vision and mission to make it a reality. We have come a long way and we have created momentum amongst the people in a good way, a grassroots way. Let's hold up our vision of unity and continue to support and enjoy each other through our shared Southern Tutchone culture."

**Shannon Walker,
Southern Tutchone Tribal Council Executive Director**

INTERESTED IN HOUSING?

**Ta'an Kwäch'än Council
Citizens who require housing
must give a completed
application to Grey Mountain
Housing Society.**

**E-mail
gmhadmin@northwestel.net or
call 867.633.4880.**

DA DAGHAY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION JUGGLES MANY PROJECTS

The doors opened to the first completed River Bend building on November 1, 2017. Four Ta'an Kwäch'än families have now moved in, along with 10 other Yukon families. The second building will be ready for move-in by January 2018; and the third building is expected to be ready for move-in March 2018; followed by landscaping in the spring.

We are currently looking at outfitting two of the three buildings with solar panels. This would be the first time in Yukon history that a housing development of this size partially operates on solar energy.



River Bend, Whitehorse, Yukon, 2017

Projects with Employment and Contract Opportunities for Citizens

Da Daghay Development Corporation (DDDC) prioritizes employment, training, and contract opportunities for Ta'an Kwäch'än Council Citizens, as well as opening doors to new partnerships. The following projects aim to provide work for Ta'an Citizens and Yukoners:

- Da Daghay Development Corporation will hire a consultant to go through the Official Community Planning and Permitting for the land DDDC has leased along the Alaska Highway below the Tank Farm. We are looking at a gravel pit.
- Da Daghay Development Corporation, in partnership with the Department of Energy Mines and Resources, is managing a geothermal well-drilling project near Takhini Hot Springs. The drilling that began in November will examine geothermal temperatures to determine the feasibility for sustainable energy opportunities.
- Da Daghay Development has engaged a consultant to explore opportunities to expand our existing contracts with Yukon Government in Wildland Fire Management.

Future Projects

We seek to improve or to add development projects. For example:

- We continue to explore opportuni-

ties for a Ta'an Kwäch'än Council administration and cultural building.

- Da Daghay Development Corporation Advisory Committee saw local TKC input and considered what the community members envisioned as commercial and residential space for the future of the Riverdale site. Once negotiations with the Government of Yukon regarding Christ the King Elementary School's use of the site are completed, we can move forward with planning and development.
- As the initial investment in Rivers Edge Partnership has not made much of a return, we are exploring an exit strategy so we can more profitably re-invest our funds.
- To push for preferential treatment of Yukon First Nations, Da Daghay Development attended meetings with Government of Yukon around the Canada Free Trade Agreement (CFTA) regarding Yukon Aboriginals and Aboriginally-owned business exemptions.

We thank our Board of Directors, Chief and Council for their continued efforts, hard work, and dedication. We encourage Ta'an Kwäch'än Council Citizens interested in employment, youth opportunities, or other information, to visit www.dadaghay.ca, or contact admindadaghay@northwestel.net, or dadaghay@northwestel.net, or call 867.667.6609.

RIVER BEND HOUSING MAKES A DIFFERENCE FOR TA'AN KWÄCH'ÄN CITIZENS

“Housing means a place to grow a place to heal, a place to build up yourself and to feel safe.” These are things that one Citizen, whom we’ll call Dale, hopes to find for their parent. With the opening of the first of twelve units that are available at River Bend (Whitehorse, Yukon), four are allocated to Ta’an Kwäch’än Citizens, Dale believes that their parent has found the type of shelter they need. “If moving to River Bend wasn’t happening,” Dale asserts, “it could virtually mean the end of my parent’s life, because their condition is at that point.”

Dale’s parent suffers from issues related to chronic pain, including addictions. The parent had been living on the streets, but about four years ago transferred into housing that proved to be inappropriate. Mold and mice worsened the parent’s breathing problems and pneumonia. Other parts of the environment were dangerous, and the parent slept “with a knife under my pillow.” Dale adds, “People kicked in the door every day and broke into my parent’s apartment looking for prescription drugs. The landlord didn’t care about the door. My parent would have to fix the door as best they could, so they could sleep at night.”

“We couldn’t keep any ‘valuables’ in the apartment, anything that would help my parent,” Dale continues. “I had to go down every morning to give my parent medication.” Dale found juggling parental care with school difficult. “The stress was making me sick,” Dale remembers. It was also unsafe and the parent says, “I told Dale not to come any more.”

How will River Bend contribute to the parent’s well-being? “There is a new door with a lock that works!” Dale is quick to answer. “And my parent will be healthier. It’s a new place, so no mold, no mouse infestations. Nurses will feel happier coming here, too.”

“It’s a process,” says the parent. “I’m nomadic and I had to get used to sitting still. But walking around there is beautiful.”

Ta’an Kwäch’än Council through its corporation, Da Daghay Develop-

ment, and with its federal, territorial, municipal and financial partners, was able to open the doors to the first 12 of a total of 42 units in November 2017. By moving into a new apartment, Dale feels that their parent is finally in a place to begin healing and “working on themselves knowing that it’s not in vain. Someone is not going to come in and take it away.”

Nothing can replace the peace of knowing that their parent is housed at River Bend and Dale dares to look forward to investing in their own self-care. “We’ve been waiting for this day a long time,” Dale concludes. “My parent is really happy, really excited. Now they have somewhere where their grandchild can come and visit. It’s a new beginning.” The parent agrees, “It’s really a change for the better.”



The kitchen of a three-bedroom unit in Building One, River Bend

SEASON'S GREETINGS FROM MUNDESSA DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

We last reported to you our non-profit corporation has a fully functioning board of directors and is in good-standing after submitting all corporate filings to Canada and Yukon Corporate Affairs, including all financials. We are finally able to operate from a healthy financial position and to begin developing programs and services for our members after reviewing the Strategic Plan. The board of directors wishes to focus on youth, development of Deep Creek Centre as a place for learning and healing, and possible development of other assets.

Mundessa is your legacy corporation that began in the 1980s. The purpose of this non-profit organization is to deliver programs and services that have a “social value” to our members while easing the costs for government. These programs could include funding for arts, heritage, language, socio-economic endeavours and environmental issues. We access funding for non-profit organizations from the federal or territorial governments.

Funding examples include: Indigenous Affairs Canada, Heritage Canada, Community Development Fund, Cultural Industry Fund, Justice Fund, Culture and Tourism, New Horizon for Seniors, FireSmart, and Contaminated Sites Fund.

At this time, we are working on program funding to upgrade Deep Creek Centre; for FireSmart work in the spring; as well as opportunities for youth employment for the summer of 2018. After our successful partnership with Ta'an Kwäch'än Council this past summer for the Youth Day Camps, we hope to employ three youth to continue the camps and work in partnership with Ta'an Kwäch'än Council.

In light of the resolution submitted to the General Assembly regarding possible dissolution of Mundessa Development Corporation and liquidation of assets directly to Citizens, some clarification might be helpful before the March 2018 Special General Assembly.

Firstly, one needs to consider tax implications. Additionally, while the General Assembly (GA) and Mundessa Development Corporation (MDC) are both composed of Ta'an Kwäch'än Council Citizens, they are constituted differently. The GA is a branch of government. MDC operates independently from government and is governed with by-laws under the Not-For-Profit Corporation Act of the federal government. MDC enjoys tax-free status so long as any profits are invested back into the organization. This is much the same as being a charity.

It will be important that the members express any concerns about this development. Members are welcome to any board meeting of Mundessa Development Corporation. The office is located on the second floor of 509B Jarvis Street, Whitehorse. Please call 867.334.2193 if you have any concerns or you wish to be placed on the agenda.

On behalf of Mundessa Development Corporation Board of Directors, I wish you and yours the best for the Christmas season and hope for a wonderful New Year.

In unity,
Jackie Bazett, President
Mundessa Development Corporation



Deep Creek Centre

PLUGGING INTO TRAINING



Peter Borotsik with his new certificates

Peter Borotsik, of the Housing and Infrastructure Department, recently completed two technically oriented courses with Ta'an Kwäch'än Council assistance. On September 15, 2017, Borotsik received diplomas for SkillsPlus Social Housing Training Module Electrical and SkillsPlus Social Housing Training Module Plumbing.

Already a 'jack-of-all-trades' who snowplows, picks up garbage, piles wood for Elders and executes many other jobs for Ta'an Kwäch'än Council, Borotsik has even more tools in his tool belt. Now he feels "more confident" about how to do basic electrical repairs and plumbing. "But," he adds, "I also know when to call a certified electrician or plumber." This might not be Borotsik's last course, because he says his time in the classroom "makes me want to learn more!"

HOUSING AND INFRASTRUCTURE PREPARES FOR WINTER

The Housing and Infrastructure Department staff have been busy this fall. They have completed the staining of the Administration Building, prepared Helen's Fish Camp for the Southern Tutchone Fall Gathering and then closed Helen's Fish Camp down for the winter. In addition, the Housing and Infrastructure Department provides water and sewage deliveries, garbage pick-up and regular maintenance on Ta'an owned housing on Settlement Lands. Garbage pick-up for Ta'an Village is every Friday. Citizens are reminded to ensure that all garbage is placed in garbage bins early Friday mornings for collection. Garbage must be put in garbage bags or sealed boxes to help facilitate the process. Loose garbage will not be picked up.

A partnership with Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) is now finalized to provide repairs to two Ta'an houses at the Lake. This will result in the replacement of a septic field at one residence and a roof replacement at another residence to be completed in the spring of 2018.

As the days grow shorter and the nights longer, Elders requiring heating fuel are asked to contact the Ta'an office at 668.3613 and ask to speak with the Housing and Infrastructure Manager, or e-mail housing.manager@taan.ca to have heating fuel delivered or reimbursement of your heating needs up to \$2000 annually.

CITIZENS HELP DEFEAT INVASIVE SPECIES



A partnership with Yukon Invasive Species Council, the City of Whitehorse and Ta'an Kwäch'än Council helped defeat bird vetch (*Vicia cracca*) at Range Point in Ta'an Traditional Territory. The plant probably originated from contaminated seed planted along the road and grew until it was choking out native vegetation and attempting to spread into the forest.

Several centimetres of top soil had been mechanically removed earlier in the year, but it took people-power to eradicate the re-sprouting infiltrators that refused to die. Two Citizens, shovels in hand, fought the plants over a week in late September. Take a look in the spring to see if their efforts have been rewarded with the re-establishment of locoweed, fireweed, yarrow and other native plants.



Michelle Lavalee-Miyahama fighting bird vetch. Photo Yukon Invasive Species Council



Shawna Tizya, Dan Adamson and Jordan Profeit

FIRESMART PROGRAM INCREASES CITY'S SAFETY

At the end of September, Jordan Profeit had “just got back from fighting fires in B.C. for a couple of weeks.” He was part of Charlie Crew, operated through Da Daghay Development Corporation, and quelled the wildfires that roared south of us this summer. This fall, Profeit put down his hose and picked up a chainsaw to do his part fighting fires in another way through the FireSmart Program.

This program “reduces surface fuels,” Profeit explains. “Most fires “don’t start up top. We get rid of the brush and the ladder fuels to help mitigate crown fires.” For eight weeks, Profeit, Shawna Tizya and Dan Adamson worked on Parcel C–51B, a five-hectare Ta'an-owned

plot of land off the Alaska Highway towards the Takhini River in the MacPherson area.

The brush clearing gives “one more good break before the city,” claims Dan Adamson, the Government of Yukon organizer of the FireSmart Program. It’s not easy going, but for Profeit in some ways it’s not much different than his summer work. “We do this for fire sometimes when we have downtime, or if it’s raining,” he says. It’s an important part of reducing fire risk and Citizens can appreciate the work the FireSmart crew does to keep Whitehorse safe.

For more information about the FireSmart Program, contact Phil Emerson at pemerson@taan.ca or 668.3613 ex. 602.

ÄSQA K'E PROVIDES FUN LEARNING ON MONDAYS

It seems Nicole Smith can't get enough of a good thing—her passion for sharing the Southern Tutchone language. She works all day teaching for the Yukon Department of Education, and on Mondays from 4:30 to 6 pm, Smith co-facilitates Äsqa K'e, a parent-child language group held at the Dusk'a Headstart Early Learning Centre on McIntyre Drive, Whitehorse.

The group began in winter 2016, took a break over the summer, and started again in September 2017. Collabor-

tively, Kwanlin Dün First Nation lends the facility and Ta'an Kwäch'än Council provides a warm, home-cooked meal.

After eating, the parents focus on learning Southern Tutchone with traditional games and stories from Irene Smith, Nicole's grandmother. The kids usually zoom around, but often the older children leave off playing to come and sit with the parents. "They know the answers!" Smith laughs, "Most of them have already learned the words during the day in school."

Smith is joined by her mother, Linda Harvey, who is also a language

teacher with the Department of Education. In fact, Smith credits Harvey with getting her into the field of language education. Even though Smith wasn't overly confident of her speaking abilities at that time, her mom told her about on-the-job training, and it seemed to be a great solution. Some four years later, Smith is still a student. "David Bunbury, who also speaks the Ta'an dialect, is my mentor at school, and I am learning my Grandma Irene's dialect from my mom at Äsqa K'e on Mondays," Smith explains.

Smith remembers that at first "I felt forced when I spoke, but it gets easier." Harvey agrees that "the popping sounds are hard to pronounce, but only at first." During Äsqa K'e, the duo makes language learning fun with games for adults, such as bingo, and candy prizes or small gifts donated by the First Nations for incentives. "I want people to be comfortable while we learn," Smith says. She encourages everyone to come out on Monday evenings. "We're getting more and more people, including people without children. But it would be great to see more Ta'an Citizens."

After the Christmas break, consider coming out on Monday evenings and learning the language—it makes a great New Year's resolution for Citizens of any age!



Seated: Selena Pye her son, Trentyn, and Linda Harvey. Standing: Nicole Smith

**Äsqa K'e, 47 McIntyre Road, 4:30 to 6 pm, Mondays.
Contact Roberta Behn, rbehn@taan.ca, 668. 3613 ex. 403.**

JANUARY 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Office closure	2	3 Traditional Sewing 5 pm	4	5	6
7	8 Äsqä K'e 4:30–6:30	9	10 Traditional Sewing 5 pm	11	12	13
14	15 Äsqä K'e 4:30–6:30	16	17 Traditional Sewing 5 pm	18	19	20
21	22 Äsqä K'e 4:30–6:30	23	24 Traditional Sewing 5 pm	25	26	27
28	29 Äsqä K'e 4:30–6:30	30	31 Traditional Sewing 5 pm			

FEBRUARY 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4	5 Äsqä K'e 4:30–6:30	6	7 Traditional Sewing 5 pm	8	9	10
11	12 Äsqä K'e 4:30–6:30	13	14 Traditional Sewing 5 pm	15	16	17
18	19 Äsqä K'e 4:30–6:30	20	21 Traditional Sewing 5 pm	22 Trapper Education 6–9:30 pm	23 Trapper Education 8:30 am Office closure Heritage Day	24 Trapper Education 8:30 am–5:30 pm
25 Trapper Education 8:30 am–5:30 pm	26 Trapper Education 8:30 am Äsqä K'e 4:30–6:30	27	28 Traditional Sewing 5 pm			

MARCH 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Special General Assembly 5 pm	2 Special General Assembly 9 am	3 Special General Assembly 9 am
4 Special General Assembly [reserved]	5 Äsqä K'e 4:30–6:30	6	7 Traditional Sewing 5 pm	8	9	10
11	12 Äsqä K'e 4:30–6:30	13	14 Traditional Sewing 5 pm	15 Post-secondary funding applications due	16	17
18	19 Culture Camp	20 Culture Camp	21 Culture Camp Traditional Sewing 5 pm	22 Culture Camp	23 Culture Camp	24
25	26 April 1 Office closure, Easter Monday	27	28 Traditional Sewing 5 pm	29	30 Office closure Good Friday	31

Event contacts—Check our website at taan.ca for updates and more events!**Roberta Behn, rbehn@taan.ca, 668.3613 ex. 403**

Äsqä K'e, 47 McIntyre Drive, Whitehorse
 Culture Camp, Health and Education Building, 117 Industrial Drive, Whitehorse, YT
 Traditional Sewing, Health and Education Building, 117 Industrial Drive

Jessica Bryant, jbryant@taan.ca, 668.3613 ex. 408

Post-secondary funding. Applications at taan.ca or 117 Industrial Drive, Health and Education Building

Amanda Leas, aleas@taan.ca, 668.3613 ex. 203

Special General Assembly, Mount McIntyre Recreation Centre, 1 Sumanik Drive, Whitehorse, YT

Phil Emerson, pemerson@taan.ca, 668.3613 ex. 602

Yukon Environment Trapper Education, Yukon Transportation Museum, Whitehorse, YT

Ta'an Kwäch'än Council Citizen Identification Cards Now Available and Valid for 5 Years



**Please contact our reception desk at
867.668.3613 to book an appointment.**

CITIZENS ARE INVITED TO EXCITING WORKSHOPS

Southern Tutchone Language Workshop

Do you have ideas for the content of the Ta'an Kwäch'än Council Southern Tutchone language program? Ta'an Kwäch'än Council will prepare a draft report following this workshop to assist with the formation of a language program. If you have views or opinions about the future of Southern Tutchone language programming at Ta'an Kwäch'än Council, please plan to attend this important workshop.

Community Unity Workshop

Please join us in a follow-up workshop. The March 2016 workshop was a starting point on a community vision of unity, with much work remaining on the next steps. The objectives of the next workshop will be to bring Citizens together to re-start the conversation about visioning and planning on community unity.

Watch for further notices, or for more information contact Barb Joe at implementationoffice@taan.ca or 668.3613 ex. 211.

THE JOY OF TRADITIONAL SEWING

Fingers fly in the Ta'an Kwäch'än Council Health and Education Building on Wednesday evenings. With one another's help and the guidance of Heritage Programs Coordinator, Roberta Behn, participants work on many different individual projects related to traditional crafts. A number of people's work incorporates beading, but each project is different. One person knits gloves for friends, another beads key chain fobs for gifts at an uncle's headstone potlach, someone makes tiny Christmas decorations, and another sews soft skin slippers for a precious new baby.

When Citizen Hilda Tuck lived in Mayo and came to Whitehorse, she found that "sometimes relatives were doing their own thing and I was sitting by myself. My granddaughter said, 'Let's go sewing!'" Hilda, as well as the other people in the group, appreciate the friendship, food and sharing around the table.

If you think that you might be interested in sewing or beading, please contact Heritage Programs Coordinator, Roberta Behn, at rbehn@taan.ca or call 668.3613 ex. 403.



Tomoko Hagel's Christmas ornament



Hilda Tuck's hand-knit gloves



Joanne Perron's baby slippers



Teresa Jacobs' key chain fobs

STUDENTS SHARE SUCCESS SECRETS

Three Ta'an Kwäch'än Citizens and students are each at different points in their post-secondary education, but all are go-getters. Cassandra Broeren, Jessica Adamson and Lee Deweert can teach most of us something about reaching goals, winning awards and snagging cool internships.

Cassandra Broeren

How many hours can you work in a day? From February to June 2017, Cassandra Broeren had several jobs: caring for her grandfather, looking after a client with Family Supports for Children with Disabilities and working at two stores. After her shifts, she came home at 10 pm to do her homework to complete her Adult Graduation Certificate. It took “no sleep and a lot of coffee,” Broeren chuckles at the memory.

Sleep was not the only thing that Broeren sacrificed to achieve her goals. She changed her lifestyle and though it was difficult, she advises others who have an education goal “not to get caught up with friends, especially if they are alcoholics.” The choice between work over parties paid off for Broeren. Not only did she graduate, but she was selected for the Angela Carlick Award and the Skookum Jim Friendship Centre Award. These awards recognized her initiative, her excellent work habits, her positive impact on her peers, and the help she gave people in her First Nations community. “I felt pretty proud, pretty happy,” Broeren says.

How did Broeren keep motivated during this grueling schedule? She acknowledges the support of staff at the Independent Learning Centre in Whitehorse, where she does her

course work. Broeren also gives a nod towards the example of her sisters. “All my sisters graduated by 17 or 18. I wanted to be sure to graduate before I was 20.”

Broeren isn't done yet. She's back in classes upgrading her English and Math. “I want to get into Carpentry,” she says. She might take a break when her baby is born in February, but nothing slows Broeren down much. “I just can't sit still for long,” she says.

Jessica Adamson

After almost a decade away from school, Jessica Adamson is now more focused and “able to understand where my teachers are coming from.” Adamson is completing an associate degree in Aboriginal Studies, as a bridge-in program to the University of British Columbia. This summer Adamson had an exciting internship related to her volunteer work with festivals and her customer service jobs. She was one of eight Aboriginal production apprentices with the City of Vancouver for Canada's 150 festivities. She helped set up lights, install stages, and ran the ‘war room’ aka production room.

Adamson loved her experience and advises those considering internships “to apply. You may not get it, but you may. Just try!” She also found that “a humble attitude helps. If you don't know how to do something, say so.



Cassandra Broeren with her coffee

I know that mentors this summer were encouraged to hear that they could actually teach the apprentices something.”

Her internship led immediately to another fantastic opportunity. She worked with Kevin Loring, the first artistic director of the new Indigenous Theatre Department at the National Arts Centre, Ottawa. Adamson assisted with a production in Loring's home town, Lytton, British Columbia. “There are only about 200 people there,” Adamson recounts, “but Loring wanted to bring skills back to where he is from and give kids opportunities that he never had. I found this inspiring.”

Now Adamson wants to help people and has decided to aim for a degree in medicine. “I've seen a huge discrepancy in medicine for people of colour,” Adamson explains. “Tests are done, for example, on straight white males. I also want to see Elders listened to. I want to be a doctor to make sure people are believed.” Someday, not so far down the road, it is going to be Adamson's turn to ‘give back.’



Jessica Adamson at work this past summer

Lee Deweert

Lee Deweert is seeing the light at the end of the educational tunnel—again. Deweert had already completed training and worked for eleven years with the RCMP. But he admits he wasn't happy. After high school he had initially started working and saving money so he could go to school for computers, “but I took a detour,” he laughs, “a long one.” Deweert is now realizing his first dream and nearing completion of a Bachelor of Science in Computer Science and Engineering at the University of Victoria.

His projects last year led him to a very special internship over the summer facilitated through University of Victoria with Natural Resources Canada. He loved doing the “back-end work” for the web development of a Pacific forestry database designed to provide First Nations with information. “The First

Laberge Renewable Resource Council is seeking nominations for a Citizen to represent Ta'an Kwäch'än Council.

Nominees should have long-term familiarity with renewable resources in the Traditional Territory in which they reside. The committee meets once a month. If interested or for information contact Phil Emerson, pemerson@taan.ca or call 668.3613 ex. 601.

Nations can make a request,” Deweert explains, “and see all the forestry roads in an area, or the vegetation. It was an awesome project and I really enjoyed working on it.”

Deweert is certain that his experience in team environments from previous jobs helped him land his dream internship. But he also sees the value in having other interests. “Having worked on basic websites in my personal life before I went to university helped,” he says. “At the job interview, I could say ‘I did this,’ or ‘I'm currently working on this.’ It was also good,” Deweert adds, “to have personal skills and to show passion. Those are things that employers want to see.”

What's next for Deweert after graduation? Deweert thinks about the future and says, “I hope to get a job in full-stack web design, kind of what Google or Facebook are doing. And maybe,” Deweert continues, “I will be able to give back to my First Nation. Ta'an helps me so much.”



Lee Deweert rides towards a new degree.

WELCOMING STAFF TO TA'AN KWÄCH'ÄN COUNCIL

Julie Laliberté: Family Support Worker

Julie is excited to be joining the Ta'an Kwäch'än Council team as the new Family Support Worker. Originally from unceded Coast Salish and Lekwungen territory in Victoria, British Columbia, Julie has been living in the Yukon for about three years. She holds a degree in Child and Youth Care from the University of Victoria and has been working with children, youth, and families for over 10 years. Her main fields of experience include working in gendered violence and violence prevention; social justice and activism; grief and loss support; adventure therapy and land-based learning; group facilitation; and supporting individuals with disabilities.

Her other interests include anything outside, crafts, cooking, and music. She looks forward to meeting and getting to know everyone here at Ta'an. You can contact Julie at familysupport@taan.ca or 668.3613 ex. 405.



Barb Joe: Implementation Officer

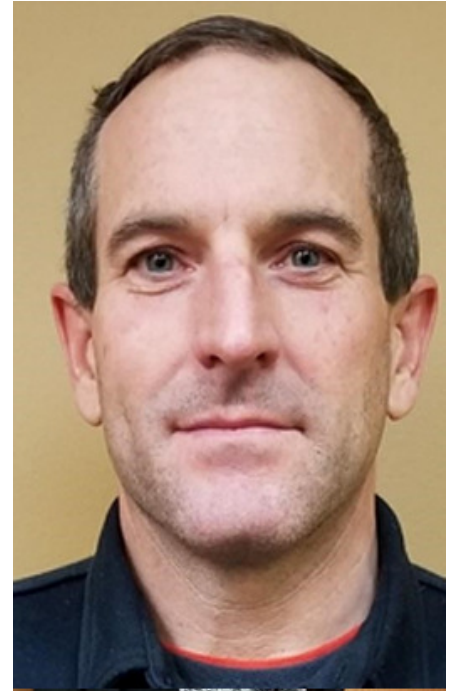
Born and raised in the Yukon, Barb is a member of the Champagne and Aishihik First Nations (CAFN). She has a law degree from the University of Victoria, a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Rural Development from the University of Alaska Fairbanks, and a diploma in interior design from Mount Royal University. Most recently, Barb received a certificate in Trust Fundamentals from National Aboriginal Trust Officers Association and certificates as Tribunal Member and Advocate from the Foundation of Administration of Justice.

Barb has previously been a board member of Yukon Energy, Yukon Development Corporation, Yukon Aboriginal Sports Circle, and Yukon Human Rights Commission. She currently chairs the Yukon Dispute Resolution Board, the Kluane National Park Management Board and the CAFN Trust. Connect with Barb at implementationoffice@taan or call 668.3613 ex. 211.

Cody Bateman: Environmental Assessment Technician

Cody holds a Bachelor of Science in Environmental and Conservation Sciences, and Bachelor of Science in Agriculture. He is aware of the challenges, complexities, and the need for fully informed and respectful decisions around environmental impacts within our Traditional Territory, as well as the rest of the Yukon. We are confident that his experience, knowledge, and skills will allow for a smooth transition of our environmental technical needs.

Cody has experience working with both government and industry on rangelands and forests, and has been a member of several boards and committees concerned with land use and conservation. Cody took part in the case study of land-use change along portions of the Alaska and Klondike Highways within Ta'an Kwäch'än Traditional Territory. This work included a review of agriculture, rural residential, and forest policies that have driven the respective land uses. If you want to get in touch with Cody, he can be reached at environmentaltech@taan.ca or call 668.3613 ex. 610.



Erin Cote: Youth Outreach and Support Worker

Erin, originally from southern Ontario, obtained her Bachelor of Education and seized the opportunity to leave North America for the first time, relocating to Asia for her teaching career. Over the last twelve years, Erin taught English, History and Geography to students at both the elementary and secondary levels in five different countries.

Erin truly loves teaching and working with young people, so being at the ground level of this newly expanded position, she is excited to be working with the youth. Her mantra is the Ta'an Kwäch'än Education Vision Statement: "The Ta'an Kwäch'än Council is committed to providing holistic educational programming to Citizens that promotes life-long learning.... Our vision is that Citizens are successful in the navigation of two worlds—achieving learning goals and honouring our Southern Tutchone language, culture and heritage." Contact Erin at youthsupport@taan.ca or call 334.8306.

YOUTH OUTREACH AND SUPPORT WORKER

This position combines the duties of the former Youth Coordinator with an expanded education support role for Kindergarten to Grade 12 students. The Youth Outreach and Support Worker will be visiting local elementary and secondary schools on a continuous basis during the school year to meet with Ta'an Kwäch'än Council youth, as well as to offer academic and social supports.

The Youth Outreach and Support Worker will be planning regular activities for youth to meet, socialize and encourage community connectedness. Additionally, the worker will assist with culture camps and other activities of interest to youth. As there are numerous community involvement and conference opportunities for Ta'an Kwäch'än Council youth, the Youth Outreach and Support Worker will do her best to inform youth of available opportunities and offer support when necessary.

Youth Outreach and Support Worker Erin Cote says, "I very much look forward to meeting and working with Citizens over the coming months. Please feel free to talk to me about how this position may be developed to meet the needs of TKC youth."

Erin can be contacted at youthsupport@taan.ca or 867.334.8306.

EDUCATION REMINDERS

1. Attendance Initiative – Steps to Success



- ✓ Ta'an Kwäch'än Council awards students with **awards and cool prizes** for high attendance and improved attendance.
- ✓ Sign-up sheets can be accessed at taan.ca or picked up in person at the Health and Education Building.
- ✓ Get your application in **before** January 15, 2018 to ensure that your child can be part of the program!

2. Individual Tutoring Program



- ✓ All Ta'an Kwäch'än Council students in Kindergarten to Grade 12 in Whitehorse can access private, one-on-one tutoring outside of school hours.
- ✓ Experienced, professional tutors work with your child in specific subject areas.
- ✓ Private tutoring can take place in your home or at the tutoring office during times that work for your family.
- ✓ **All tutoring sessions are FREE!**

3. Post-Secondary Funding Applications

- ✓ Are you planning on going back to school? Are you continuing your program of study this summer? The deadline for post-secondary funding for summer 2018 semester is March 15, 2018.
- ✓ Applications can be picked up in person at the Health and Education building, or found at taan.ca.

For more information, contact Education Support Worker Jessica Bryant at jbryant@taan.ca or 668.3613 ex. 408.

FISH EGGS AND CARIBOU CALVES

There is good news when it comes to Chinook salmon and caribou breeding. For Chinook salmon, the transfer of eyed-eggs from Whitehorse Rapids Fish Hatchery to the Yukon College McIntyre Creek Incubation Facility took place on October 30, 2017. Ta'an Kwäch'än Council staff transported 30,000 eggs to awaiting trays. The eggs will hatch and grow into fry, which will be released in Fox Creek sometime in summer 2018 as part of the Fox Creek Restoration Plan.

As for caribou, the mountains around the M'Clintock Valley provide excellent fall breeding habitat for caribou in the northwestern portion



of the Carcross herd range. Every fall, Environment Yukon monitors caribou in partnership with Ta'an Kwäch'än Council. We look closely at calf numbers in particular, as this can tell us if a herd is growing or declining.

This fall, about 350 caribou were counted in the M'Clintock area and 600 throughout the Carcross herd range. Calf numbers overall seem to indicate a stable or slowly growing Carcross herd.

The Southern Lakes Caribou First Nation Working Group is looking at the implementation of the recommendations from the Southern Lakes Wildlife Coordinating Committee 2012.

We are looking for a knowledgeable Elder who might be interested in joining the working group.

If interested, or to find out more information, contact Deb Fulmer, at dfulmer@taan.ca or 668.3613 ex. 603.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL COLLABORATION PLANS FOR FUTURE

The City of Whitehorse Archaeological Potential Model determines culturally significant and sensitive areas using traditional knowledge, biophysical data and archaeology. Information helps to develop a comprehensive geographical information system (GIS) model of archaeological potential for planning decisions.

As the archaeological fieldwork was completed in October, Shawna Tizya helped Stantec Corporation, as they identified nine new pre-contact heritage sites, one post-contact heritage site and traditional trails. For additional information, please contact Derek Cooke, at dcooke@taan.ca, 668.3613 ex. 608.



Darrell Otto, Morgan Gilmar of the McIntyre Creek Incubation Facility, with Ta'an Kwäch'än Council employee, Derek Cooke.

CHILLS AND THRILLS OF ICE PATCH ARCHAEOLOGY

For Land Steward Testloa Smith, visiting the glacial ice patches and looking for artifacts give an amazing perspective on how “people in the past harvested caribou.” In August 2017, Testloa Smith and Sophie Knezacek (summer student) flew by helicopter to the ice patches in the mountains east of Big Salmon Lake. They were accompanied by Michael Campbell of Teslin Tlingit Council; Ty Heffner, Greg Hare and Christian Thomas, archeologists with Yukon Tourism and Culture. The ice patches, Smith explains, “are places where caribou over the years went to cool down and get rid of bugs when it was hot. Now, because of global warming, some of the old bones and the tools that people used for harvesting caribou have become exposed.”

This particular area was very well-visited. “There must have been hundreds of caribou,” Smith explains, “because the pile of dung is five feet thick!” “Where the caribou were, the people were. We find arrow heads, spears and tools they used back then. We found a [rock] blind, up high, where someone might have been waiting for the caribou. It makes me think about

how people had to rely on what they had for harvest. That’s my interest,” he concludes, “Learning about the past.”

The program has been going since the 1990s and, over the years, various staff members, Elders, and Citizens, including Chief Kristina Kane, have participated. Chief Kane remembers walking along “praying that I would be lucky enough to find an artifact that belonged to my People that came before me. When I came across an arrow shaft, I felt so honoured.” Kane and Smith are among those who appreciate the biological and spiritual connection that ice patch artifacts can give. Yukon is known as a global leader in ice patch archaeology. The Government of Yukon collaborates with



Sophie Knezacek, Ty Heffner and Testloa Smith



Chief Kane on an ice patch archaeology trip, in about 2008, beside an arrow shaft.

Yukon First Nations to undertake archeology on glaciers that are located within their Traditional Territories.

For more information, contact Derek Cooke at dcooke@taan.ca or call 668.3613 ex. 608.

SOUTHERN LAKES INDIGENOUS LAND USE PLANNING CHARTER SIGNING

On October 10, 2017, a project charter for the Southern Lakes Indigenous Land Use Planning agreement was signed by the chiefs from Ta'an Kwäch'än Council (TKC), Kwanlin Dün First Nation (KDFN) and Carcross/Tagish First Nation (CTFN). The signing was followed by a visioning workshop with the Elders present from each nation at Carcross/Tagish First Nation's Learning Centre.

The goal of the project is to develop an Indigenous "preparation" initiative with the keystone project being a First Nation-designed and -led cultural, and ecosystem based conservation design that supports an integrated multi-party Southern Lakes Land Use Process.

Under Chapter 11 (Land Use Planning) of the three Yukon First Nations' Final Agreements, the objectives are to minimize actual or potential land use conflicts, to utilize the knowledge and experience of Yukon Indian People, to recognize Yukon First Nations' responsibilities pursuant to Settlement Agreements for the use and management of Settlement Land and to ensure social, cultural, economic and environmental policies are applied to the management, protection and use of land, water and resources in an integrated and coordinated manner so as to ensure sustainable development.

Signing this agreement is an opportunity for First Nations to take a lead role in land use planning. It is exciting to collaborate and strengthen relationships with CTFN and KDFN, and to work closely with the Citizens of Ta'an Kwäch'än Council.

The principles of the Indigenous land use planning as applied in the charter are:

- to support an Indigenous worldview,
- integrate traditional knowledge with science based approaches,
- inclusive of customary practices of people and the land, and
- to provide a holistic First Nations' perspective matched and complemented by a western scientific view by the cultural and ecosystem based conservation design.



The gathering at the Carcross/Tagish First Nation's Learning Centre



Chiefs Doris Bill, Andy Carvill and Kristina Kane sign the document.

LANDS ACT— A COMMUNITY LED PROCESS

In January 2017, Chief and Council reinitiated the development of the Ta'an Kwäch'än Council Lands Act. Throughout 2017, the Lands, Resources and Heritage Department has been doing preliminary work on the Act. We secured funding through Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada's Lands and Economic Development Services Program, and initially, that funding was to be used to merge the *Lands and Resources Act* (2011) and the *Community Lands Bill* (2014) into one document, with the new document to be brought to the community. After several months, discussions with Chief and Council, Elders Council, and members of the community, Lands, Resources and Heritage

received direction to “design a public consultation process to seek input from Ta'an Kwäch'än Citizens with a vision of passing a Lands Act” (Motion 2017-09-03). What Lands, Resources and Heritage heard was this process needs to be led by the community and Citizens need to be involved right from the start.

How Do You Want to Be Involved? Lands, Resources and Heritage's first community outreach was at this year's General Assembly. A simple survey was handed out to ask Citizens how they want to be consulted, and a 50% return rate was received!

This initial survey also informs Lands, Resources and Heritage how Citizens want to be consulted. A range of responses were received that included public meetings, family meetings, one-on-one discussions, online surveys, and mail outs. Between now and April 2018, Lands, Resources and Heritage will be holding at least three public

meetings (one was held prior to printing) where we expect Citizens to tell us what they want in the Lands Act and to help guide the process.

This survey was initiated at the Ta'an Kwäch'än Council General Assembly in October and is available to all Citizens at the taan.ca website at: http://taan.ca/departments/lands-resources-and-heritage/lands/lands_act_information/. All Citizens are encouraged to fill out the survey and e-mail it to landsact@taan.ca or drop it off at the office. There is no deadline for the survey: Lands, Resources and Heritage wants to hear from you!

For more information, see our insert in this newsletter, or, e-mail landsact@taan.ca, or call Lands Use Planning Coordinator Natalie Leclerc at 668.3613 ex. 604.

**The Lands Act process
now has its own e-mail!
Distribution of
documents will now be
sent from
landsact@taan.ca!**

**Citizens can also e-mail
any questions or
comments they might
have to this address.**

**“What are your hopes and aspirations for this community consultation?
What is your vision of the process?” Feedback from Citizens:**

**“To get an over-arching Lands Act and then regulations for all the category
lands.”**

“Hold a public meeting and let Citizens vote on it.”

**“Citizens that live here, know the land, and have worked within our
government in-depth; I'd like to highly encourage your participation on the
Lands Act as it will benefit our families for generations to come. Unity,
equality and integrity are the key factors that go into a well-developed
Lands Act for the future of Ta'an Kwäch'än Council as a whole!”**

**“Engagement of Citizens has a two-part responsibility: TKC's and individual
Citizens. You do your part; we need to do ours.”**

FOX LAKE LOCAL AREA PLAN PREPARES FOR THE FINAL PUSH



Fox Lake visioning workshop. Photo Roy Neilson

This year has been a busy one for the Fox Lake Local Area Planning process. In February 2017, the Government of Yukon provided Ta'an Kwäch'än Council with funding to conduct one-on-one interviews with Citizens to gain knowledge of traditional uses and cultural pursuits in the area. Citizen Felicia Gordon was hired by the Government of Yukon to conduct the interviews and Natalie Leclerc served as project lead. A total of ten interviews were conducted, and the information collected contributed to the Fox Lake Local Area Plan Visioning Workshop that was held in October 2017.

It is anticipated that Phase Two will be completed in winter 2018, and Phase Three—the final stretch—will begin in spring 2018. Citizens will continue to have opportunities to provide input into the planning process. Dates for public consultation will be set. For more information, contact Natalie Leclerc, Land Use Planning Coordinator, at nleclerc@taan.ca or call 867.668.3613 ex. 604.

TA'AN KWÄCH'ÄN COUNCIL GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2017 TAKES US FORWARD

During the beautiful and sunny weekend of 28 and 29 October, 2017, approximately 60 Ta'an Kwäch'än Council Citizens gathered at the Mount McIntyre Recreation Centre have a voice in their government.

Several Traditional Families appointed youth to their delegations. Youth partook in the discussions and provided valuable points of view. The unity of our youth is an asset to cultivate and build on.

One of the resolutions passed at the General Assembly reiterated the collective responsibilities of Chief and Council to work together respectfully. Another resolution approved by the General Assembly was to categorize abstention votes as abstentions and not as affirmative votes. It was also decided to extend the moratorium on the Land Compensation Fund for an additional five years.

Some of the matters sparked passionate debates and were followed by secret ballot voting. Many outstanding resolutions and proposed constitutional amendments have been raised and these prompted a resolution by the General Assembly to hold a Special General Assembly in early 2018. Citizens are encouraged to participate as it helps shape your government and its priorities.



General Assembly 2017



A CHRISTMAS STORY ABOUT MY DAD

My dad, William (Billy) Cletheroe was born on the Falkland Islands, UK in 1876 and husband of Amy Mable Lebarge, First Nation Tagish Kwan. One particular Christmas stands out in memory for me. Our family of nine lived many miles from Whitehorse, Yukon, at Little Violet Creek, approximately five miles (eight kilometres) north of an abandoned mining town of Livingstone Creek, until I was 12 years old.

Our family homesteaded in this remote area where our dad had operated a placer gold mine in the summer and had trapped furs in the winter since the early thirties. Our livelihood mainly depended on the country which provided water, firewood, furs and skins from animals, wild meat and plants from the forest and a variety of vegetables picked from a large garden in the fall and stored.

Dad made two trips per year to Whitehorse for staples such as flour,

sugar, rice, beans, tea, salt and so on. In the spring, Dad would trek 20 miles (32 kilometres) with a huge pack of animal pelts to Winter Crossing, located on the banks of the Teslin River, and then boated to Whitehorse to sell our furs, buy supplies and return on the same route. At the Teslin River Winter Crossing campsite, food was stored in a log cabin, kept in a large tin box hanging from the rafters, then hauled by pack board by the family and dog packs to home, when needed.

After winter freeze up, Dad would take the summer clean-up of gold and mush a team of eight dogs pulling a toboggan across country, breaking trail on snowshoes ahead of the dogs on an olden day route to sell his gold and buy supplies. He always made it home before Christmas.

Dad always helped Mom cook the Christmas dinner which consisted of Blue Grouse, harvested from a stand of spruce trees not too far from our house. For this special occasion we had that best vegetables that were saved for the dinner.

Dad, being an Englishman from the Falkland Islands, made his famous steamed plum duff pudding complete with white sauce. Wild cranberries topped off the meal. The aromas that wafted through the house on Christmas Day were beyond any young child's imagination.

The year I was 10, in 1945, Dad made his usual trip to Whitehorse for supplies. He started out in late November, leaving plenty of time to return home before Christmas (or so he thought).

We settled in to await Dad's return. Mom and older sister Frances were busy sewing things for Christmas presents: mukluks, mitts for the boys; and white caribou skin dolls and gloves for the girls. The boys were busy running their trap lines, skinning and stretching pelts, hunting rabbits and getting ready for the big Christmas Blue Grouse hunt. Our shed was always full of frozen and dried moose meat, and fowl from the fall hunts. Bears were harvested and the meat was packed in, dried and used to feed the dogs all winter and spring. Because of Mom's Indian customs and beliefs the family did not eat bear flesh.

The weather had dropped down very cold and stayed cold. One day evolved into another and as it drew closer to Christmas, there was no sign of Dad. Our whole family was starting to grow very anxious and talk continued about the many perils and possibilities of why Dad had not come home. We all knew without a doubt that Dad would eventually be home, but we wondered if he would be home for Christmas!

At night, generally, we were all in bed by eight, to save on lamp oil and candles. But on this particular Christmas Eve, Mom said we could stay up as late as we wanted to, to wait for Dad. If he didn't show up, she and our oldest brother, Stanley, would snowshoe out in the morning to look for him. The thermometer had dropped to 44 below (-42 C) that night.

On that Christmas Eve, we all sat quietly around the kitchen table in the candle light with unshed tears in our eyes and unspoken fearful thoughts in our heads until around 10 o'clock, when I was sure that I could hear bells.

"I hear Dad!" I shouted and was told to shut up and listen. By then the dog collar bells* could be clearly heard and we all jumped up and ran out the door. Out of the coal black night came Dad and his team. Our dad, always a clean shaven man, had long whiskers that hung with long icicles. The dogs' thick shaggy fur hung with icicles. Both our dad and the dog team were barely moving on sore feet, suffering from the cold and exhaustion.

Apparently Dad was delayed due to severe ice overflows. He had to camp several times to dry out the dogs' feet and his own, after falling through ice flows. He finally had to reroute, breaking trail all the way on snow shoes. Everyone was rejoicing as Dad ate a meal and was made comfortable to tell his story and the dogs were fed, watered and made warm in their dog houses.

The next morning, Dad was up early on Christmas Day, clean shaven to make the morning tea, cook the breakfast porridge and begin preparing the Christmas



dinner. Several Blue Grouse were laying in a row, harvested by brothers Stanley and Ralph, ready for Dad to stuff with sage dressing. The pudding ingredients were measured and ready to mix, and vegetables washed and ready to peel.

As we sat that evening to our Christmas meal, I know that we each silently, in our own way, gave thanks to our Creator for our presents, our bountiful meal, and most of all for bringing home our dad. We all remember that Dad brought us the tastiest treat of all, Juicy Fruit Gum, one package each, and the boys got new pocket knives.

To this day, I have not forgotten that Christmas memory of long ago.

— by Alice (Cletheroe) McGuire

* Back in the olden days, when travelling by dog team in the winter was the only means of transportation, dog harnesses were decorated in wool tassels of many colours and bells attached to collars to ward off wild animals on the trail and warn other travellers to control their dogs when meeting on the trail.

**Chief Kane, Deputy Chief Telep
and Ta'an Kwäch'än Council staff**

**wish you a
safe and peaceful
holiday season.**

Editor's Note: We hope future issues will carry stories from the traditional families. Please contact the Communications Officer at communicationsoffice@taan.ca or call 668.3613 ex. 204.



Notice to all Citizens
Please attend our
Special General Assembly



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**March 1 - 3, 2018**

March 1-5:00pm-8:00pm  
 March 2&3- 9:00am-5:00pm

**Mount McIntyre Recreation Centre**  
 1 Sumanik Drive

**Childcare & meals included.**  
**Daily breakfast @ 8:15am**

Delegate forms are available at TKC's main office and on the  
 TKC website at [www.taان.ca](http://www.taان.ca)

Forms must be submitted prior to the start of the GA.

**DEADLINE FOR CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS IS  
 FEBRUARY 4th, 2018**

Submit amendments and delegate forms to  
[ClerkOfCouncil@taan.ca](mailto:ClerkOfCouncil@taan.ca) or fax to 867.667.4295

For more information contact  
**Amanda Leas- [aleas@taan.ca](mailto:aleas@taan.ca)**  
 117 Industrial Road, Whitehorse Yukon  
 (867) 668.3613 ext. 203

Any changes further to this will be reflected on the website  
***Celebrating 15 years of Self-governance.***



**TA'AN KWÄCH'ÄN  
 COUNCIL**

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 Whitehorse YT, Y1A 2T8

Phone: 867.668.3613

Fax: 867.667.4294

[www.taان.ca](http://www.taان.ca)

**Citizens, email [admin@taan.ca](mailto:admin@taan.ca) with your  
 address changes. Also, please let us  
 know if you would prefer paper or  
 electronic notices and  
 newsletters in the future.**